

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/864,862
Reply to Office Action dated April 29, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1-4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, comprising the further step of shielding selected surfaces in the chamber from direct exposure to microwaves.
- 6-7. (Cancelled)
8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein the chamber includes a sensor taking the temperature measurements with arc inhibiting surfaces and a stirrer with arc inhibiting surfaces.
9. (Previously Presented) A method of lyophilizing material, comprising the steps of:
- placing material to be processed in a chamber under temperature and pressure conditions facilitating lyophilization;
 - creating a microwave field in the chamber;
 - taking temperature measurements in the chamber;
 - controlling microwave power and duration to vary microwave field strength in response to temperature measurements;
 - passing water vapor from the material being dried to or through a desiccant.
- 10-11. (Cancelled)

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12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 10 9, further comprising providing selected surfaces in the chamber with arc inhibiting surfaces.
13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 10 9, further comprising providing a stirrer with arc inhibiting surfaces.
14. (Cancelled)

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